

2. PANGOLIN SIGHTINGS IN WESTERN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

During field work from November 1995 to April 1996 for a project in Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary (92°7.5'E - 92°22'E and 26°53.7'N - 27°16.2'N), East Kameng dist., western Arunachal Pradesh, I sighted pangolins on two occasions. Both sightings were in the daytime. The first sighting was in 1995 in a reserve forest near Balijuri in Sonitpur dist. Assam (near the Assam-Arunachal border). The animal was moving in the vegetation near the roadside. The second sighting was of an animal foraging near a perennial stream (locally called Sukan nala) in the early morning around 8 am in December 1997. It was observed digging near the edge of the stream, but vanished into the undergrowth on my approach.

Two species of pangolins occur in India, viz. the Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*). The distribution of the Indian pangolin is given as being in peninsular India, south of the Himalaya and in Sri Lanka, while that of the Chinese pangolin is through northeastern India, Nepal, Burma and south China (Grzimek 1975, Prater 1980, Corbet and Hill 1992). The Chinese

pangolin is somewhat smaller in size than the Indian pangolin and has 15-18 rows of scales around the body, while the Indian pangolin has 11-13 scales around the body (Prater 1980, Corbet & Hill 1992). Other than these differences, there seem to be no field characters by which the two species can be distinguished, though Grzimek (1975) points out that the scales of the Chinese pangolin are blackish-brown, while those of the Indian pangolin are large and light yellow-brown. The animals I saw were light brown in colour, but given the fact that the distribution of the Indian pangolin is in peninsular India, the animal I saw is probably the Chinese pangolin. This species is rarely sighted or recorded as it is nocturnal. The Chinese pangolin is listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. It would be interesting to know if there is any overlap in the range of the two species.

June 29, 1998

APARAJITA DATTA
Wildlife Institute of India
P.O. # 18, Chandrabani,
Dehra Dun 248 001.

REFERENCES

- ANON. (1992): The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended upto 1991). Natraj Publishers, Dehra Dun.
- CORBET, G.B. & J.E. HILL (1992): The Mammals of the Indo-Malayan region: a systematic review. Natural History Museum Publications, Oxford University Press, pp. 488.
- GRZIMEK, B. (1975): Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Volume 11, Mammals II. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. pp. 634.
- PRATER, S.H. (1980): The Book of Indian Animals, 3rd Edn. Repr. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. p. 34.

3. SIGHTING OF RUSTYSPOTTED CAT *PRIONAILURUS RUBIGINOSUS* IN TADOBA ANDHARI TIGER RESERVE, MAHARASHTRA

The rustyspotted cat was once thought to be rare with a small range of distribution. It has since been reported from Gir Wildlife Sanctuary (Chellam, pers. comm.), Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary (Vidya Athreya and Christy Williams pers.

comm.) and Melghat Tiger Reserve (Wankhede, 1996). Acharjyo *et al.* 1997, reported the presence of this lesser cat from Phulbani dist. in Orissa for the first time. In 1994, it was reported from Sariska Tiger Reserve (Mukharjee, pers.